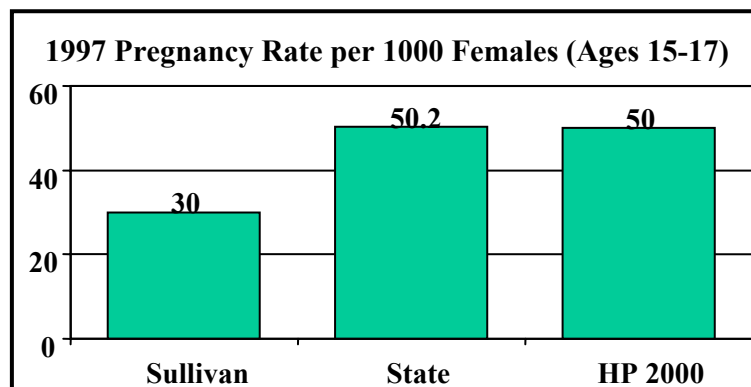


Teen Pregnancy

While the teen pregnancy rate for Sullivan County falls below the Healthy People 2000 Objectives, the major concern lies in the area of prenatal care. Of the 1710 births in Sullivan County during 1996 to females ages 10-17, adequate prenatal care was a concern for 33% of those births as compared with 26.7% of births state wide. In 1997, approximately 49% of teen births received less than adequate care. While TennCare provides “presumptive eligibility” for expectant mothers in an effort to improve access to prenatal care, only 16% of those receiving presumptive eligibility services through the Sullivan County Health Department were 15-18 years of age.



The biggest concern with information concerning the level of care revolves around the accuracy of information being received. Several questions arise regarding how and when this information is gathered, as well as, what definitions are used to determine “adequate care”. There is a definite need for increased education for both health care professionals and women of childbearing age. Targeting those groups that see a higher rate of pregnant teenagers can do this.

Agencies working with teenage and pregnant women include:

- March of Dimes
- Sullivan Co. Regional Health Department - Help Us Grow Program
- Sullivan Co. Regional Health Department - TN Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program
- YWCA
- Kingsport Even Start